

Deep River

for Solo Piano

African-American Spiritual
Arranged by David Winkler

with lots of ebb and flow in the tempo

ten.

p *mp*

SAMPLE SCORE

The first system of musical notation for 'Deep River' is in 4/4 time and B-flat major. It consists of two staves: a treble staff and a bass staff. The treble staff begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and features a series of chords. The bass staff provides a steady accompaniment. A *ten.* (tension) marking is placed above the second measure. The system concludes with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic.

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The second system of musical notation continues the piece. It features a first ending bracket over the first measure of the system. The notation includes various rhythmic patterns and dynamics, with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic indicated in the bass staff.

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mf

The third system of musical notation continues the piece. It features a first ending bracket over the first measure of the system. The notation includes various rhythmic patterns and dynamics, with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic indicated in the bass staff.

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The fourth system of musical notation continues the piece. It features a first ending bracket over the first measure of the system. The notation includes various rhythmic patterns and dynamics, with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic indicated in the bass staff.

The first system of musical notation for 'Deep River' consists of a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The music begins with a series of chords in the right hand and a single note in the left hand. A repeat sign is present. The system concludes with a forte (*f*) dynamic marking and a fermata over a chord.

The second system continues the piece. It features a *poco rit.* (poco ritardando) marking. The music includes a fermata over a chord in the right hand. The system ends with a *dim.* (diminuendo) marking.

The third system continues with a *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic. It includes a *dim. e rit.* (diminuendo e ritardando) marking and a *mp* (mezzo-piano) dynamic. The system concludes with a fermata over a chord.

The fourth system continues with a *mp* dynamic. It features a fermata over a chord in the right hand. The system concludes with a fermata over a chord.

The fifth system is marked '(repeat optional)'. It begins with a *rit.* (ritardando) marking. The music concludes with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a fermata over a chord. An *8vb* (octave below) marking is present at the bottom right.

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African-American Spiritual

arranged for piano solo by David Winkler

It was after the American Civil War (1861-1865) that the songs of the enslaved African-Americans became known to the general public, particularly through performances by the legendary Fisk Jubilee Singers. These songs, born out of the sorrow and misery of the slave culture, are remarkable in their expressive and emotional nature. Many of the songs echo Biblical themes, reflecting a deep faith in God. Thus, these songs are referred to as “spirituals.”

“Deep River” is one of the most well-known of the spirituals. It was popularized by the singer and composer Henry Burleigh in his 1916 collection *Jubilee Songs of the USA*. The lyrics represent death as a deep river, but looks to the hope of the promised land of heaven beyond, and invites the listener to join in the journey to “that gospel feast.”

*Deep river, my home is over Jordan.
Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.*

*Oh, don't you want to go to that gospel feast?
That promised land, where all is peace?*

*Deep river, my home is over Jordan.
Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.*

In playing this piece, take time to bring out the warmth and beauty of each phrase. If possible, you may want to refer to the recorded demo by the arranger.

Visit our website to discover more piano arrangements by David Winkler.

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